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FBIS REGISTRY

16 June 1982

[Redacted]

Executive Officer, DDS&T

Room 6E45 Hqs.

D/FBIS
 2 DD/FBIS
 1 C/E&PS
 C/LRB CC
 CMO
 6 C/AG
 5 C/PROD 25X17
 3 C/CPS
 4 C/ADMIN AC/DRD
 201 FILE
 7 EXEC. REG. File

FYI.

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DD/FBIS

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Key

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Distribution:

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1 - D/FBIS Chrono

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1 - C/LRB

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Bahrain Incident

The special pressures that FBIS foreign nationals are under in working for a CIA-affiliated organization were dramatically illustrated this past week when an FBIS monitor in Bahrain was pulled from his car at a supermarket and knifed by persons apparently connected with a Shi'ite group known as the "Islamic Unity Movement." The local security service had warned the [redacted] [redacted], had been identified at a IUM meeting as working for the "den of the enemies." [redacted] was warned by the FBIS bureau chief to be circumspect in his contacts with locals and maintain a low profile. Although he was not seriously injured, the incident had a significant psychological impact on the employee and his family. At his request, he has now been returned to London, his point of hire, and is receiving appropriate severance pay. An Iranian colleague, also a Farsi monitor, has indicated he also plans to resign and return to London. FBIS still has ample Persian-language capability, but the complications of operating in the Gulf area at this time, and the special implications of foreign nationals working for FBIS, are amply demonstrated by the incident. [redacted]

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Language Officer Recruiting

Recruitment of skilled foreign-language documents officers for employment at FBIS Headquarters continues to be a severe problem in several high-priority areas. These include persons with language and technical knowledge in Japanese, Arabic, and East European languages, and combinations of Russian with S&T capability or Soviet vernacular languages. Despite FBIS-initiated recruitment trips and advertising campaigns, and the normal recruitment process, not enough prospects are being put into the pipeline to fill the positions associated with these areas. The problem of identifying applicants with the needed language and substantive expertise has been compounded by a high number of security disqualifications, particularly in the East European and Russian-language areas. Applicants for Japanese S&T positions are rare, partially because those with requisite skills can command high salaries in U.S. and Japanese industry. The problem of East European recruiting is illustrated by the recent filling of a single Polish-language position: Of 15 applicants entered into the recruiting pipeline, 12 were rejected on security grounds and 2 lost interest. [redacted]

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FBIS is continuing to work with O/S and OMS as well as the Office of Personnel to attempt to streamline the vetting procedures and to do a better job of finding language-qualified officers that meet the Agency's strict Staff personnel requirements. ☐

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